COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A STATISTICAL SAMPLE METER TEST PLAN FOR RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CLASS METERS PURSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:022 SECTION 8(5)(C)	))))))	CASE NO. 96-010

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia") shall file the original and 10 copies of the following information with the Commission, with a copy to all parties of record by March 22, 1996. Each copy should be placed in a bound volume with each item tabbed. When a number of sheets are required for an item each sheet should be indexed appropriately. Columbia shall furnish with each response the name of the witness who will be available to respond to questions concerning each item of information requested should a public hearing be scheduled.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an informal conference will be held on March 29, 1996 at 9:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Engineering Conference Room of the Commission's offices at 677 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky, to discuss Columbia's statistical sample gas meter test plan and the responses requested herein.

1. Provide the overall estimated savings of the program to include savings from sample testing new meters.

2. Columbia states that the purpose of the program is the detection and early removal of meters that do not meet prescribed performance standards. Will the proposed 4-year early removal of rejected meters ensure a high accuracy level? Explain.

3. What is the anticipated largest group size and its sample size for industrial meters?

4. Using Columbia's current meter database provide the following:

a. Number and size of control groups.

b. Criteria for segregating the meters into homogeneous control groups.

c. Criteria for combining control groups.

d. Criteria for subdividing a control group.

5. Is mileage for high gas consuming customers considered a factor in establishing a control group? Explain.

6. Provide Columbia's shipping procedure to assure that the meters tested by the manufacturer or Columbia's meter shop conform to the limits set forth in the test facility.

7. How will the degree of confidence be determined for a control group performance?

8. Will Columbia file the operating characteristic curve of the each control group?

9. How does Columbia propose to improve the performance of a control group which has a test record within the high limit of the specified acceptable standard? Will a tightened inspection be considered as an option for such a group?

10. Do the proposed service life limitations set forth in Section II of Columbia's description of the plan apply to new meters and those currently in service? For example, what is the plan for a meter currently in service for 14 years? Explain.

11. Explain how the statistical sampling test will improve Columbia's meter quality and meter maintenance program.

12. Will Columbia consider a plan to inspect the new meter control groups for critical defects? Explain.

13. Clarify what corrective action will be taken for a group under reduced inspection when the group is rejected. Will it be removed or reinspected under normal inspection?

14. Explain and provide any written information which supports the 35-year service life for residential meters.

15. What is the rationale for limiting the minimum sample size to 32 meters? Explain how the proposed minimum sample size is sufficient size to demonstrate the condition of its group.

16. What is the consumer risk factor for the proposed minimum sample size?

17. Provide statistical records and bar graphs for meter testing for the past 14 years.

18. How often will Columbia test the customer's piping for leaks under the proposed plan?

19. Document the frequency with which Columbia's personnel find safety problems when inspecting a customer's premises during meter changes.

20. Refer to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 25(5)(c). Will the proposed plan change the interval for curb box and curb valve inspections?

21. Will the proposed plan change the test interval for individual residential customer service regulators, vents and relief valves?

22. How often will vents be checked for satisfactory operation?

23. In the proposed plan, how many times in a 5-year period would a Columbia employee be on a customer's premises (excluding meter reading)?

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 8th day of March, 1996.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Linda K Breathitt

For the Commission

ATTEST:

Don Mills

Executive Director